

*****C O N F I D E N T I A L*****S COPY

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DE WTE #2780 1411351
O 211351Z MAY 74
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 262//

TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIA BLACK PATCH WH41431

TOHAK 262

State Dept. review completed

BANGKOK 8288
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGDV, TH
SUBJECT: THAILAND INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION REPORT AS OF 1900
MAY 21
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
REF: A. BANGKOK 8236; B. BANGKOK 8264

1. GOVERNMENT HOUSE SPOKESMAN, NITSAI WETCHACHIWA, TOLD
THE PRESS AT 1430 MAY 21 THAT PRIME MINISTER SANYA
THAMMASAK HAD SUBMITTED A LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO THE
KING. HE REQUESTED AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF MAY 22.
THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THE RESIGNATION
OF THE PRIME MINISTER WILL RESULT IN THE PRESENT GOVERN-
MENT'S TERM OF OFFICE COMING TO AN END (REFERENCE B).
WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT SANYA AND HIS CABINET
INTENT TO EXIT TOGETHER.

2.

25X1

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SECFILE

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4. THE MAY 21 "BANGKOK WORLD" REPORTS THAT SANYA SAID THROUGH HIS SPOKESMAN THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY MORE POLITICAL POSTS IN THE FUTURE. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTS THAT ROYAL THAI ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL KRIT SIWARA ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS POST AS DIRECTOR OF MAINTENANCE OF THE PEACE MAY 21.

5. COMMENT: AT PRESENT WE KNOW ONLY THAT SANYA HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE KING. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE KING HAS ACCEPTED OR WILL ACCEPT HIS RESIGNATION. AS THINGS NOW STAND, THERE ARE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 24 HOURS IN WHICH TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE CABINET CRISIS BEFORE RESIGNATION BECOMES EFFECTIVE AT MIDNIGHT MAY 22.

25X1

HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT REFUSE A DIRECT REQUEST FROM THE KING THAT HE STAY ON, AT LEAST FOR A TIME.

25X1

AT THE MOMENT THE SITUATION IS FLUID AND ACTION WILL APPARENTLY SHIFT TO HUA HIN.
MASTERS
0457

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